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PUBLICATION OF THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER.

January, 1974.

This being the first Bulletin for the year, the Committee wishes to thank members for their support during 1973, especially those who assisted in making Dr. Hynek's visit a most memorable event. He was most impressed and stated so from the platform of the Dallas Brooks Hall where he addressed a gathering on the Sunday afternoon.

A note of praise and appreciation is extended to our Sightings Investigations Representatives in country areas, who have capably carried out investigation on our behalf.

We also thank those members and other Societies who so kindly addressed Christmas Greetings to us and we hope that 1974 will be a Happy and Prosperous year for all, free from ill health and accidents.

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MEETINGS FOR 1974.

Members, don't forget that this year meetings will be held on the SECOND FRIDAY NIGHT OF EVERY SECOND MONTH, COMMENCING FEBRUARY. 8th.

Guest speaker for that meeting will be Mr. George Sansom, a qualified chemist with a long standing interest in the U.F.O. subject. He will lecture on "The uses and abuses of Statistics in relation to UFO's."

Meetings are held in the National Mutual Theatrette, 447 Collins Street, Melbourne at 8 p.m.

Library books can also be exchanged at meetings, and even though members are permitted to retain these for one month, it is hoped they will be returned as soon as read so they can be sent on to other members on waiting lists.

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MEMBER PARTICIPATION.

In the months between the General Meetings we hope to hold Discussion Nights in members' homes and are eager to learn of those willing to assist in this manner.

May this year also see greater participation from members, in reporting sightings in their areas, forwarding any snippets of information or articles which they believe may be of interest to their fellow members.

REMEMBER, this is your Society and we can only remain successful and active by receiving your support, not only on a monetary basis, but by investigation and information.

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FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

By Don Herbison-Evans.

If you rapidly swing a torch which is focussed to a spot of light onto a distant wall at night, you can make the spot move along the wall at a speed faster than the speed of light.

Einstein made no comments or limitations on this kind of process. It occurs in a number of non-trivial situations in science e.g. it is suspected of being the cause of the apparent separation of the components of a quasar at a velocity faster than the speed of light, and it causes the "phase velocity" of microwaves down a waveguide to be faster than the speed of light.

In the 1920's, this caused a number of scientists to investigate whether (a) messages, (b) energy, could be communicated using this effect from one place to another, faster than the speed of light. They found that energy and messages travel at a speed called "group velocity", and if G is the group velocity, P is the phase velocity, then

$$P \cdot G = C^2$$

where C is the ordinary velocity of light, so as $P > C$, then $P < C$.

When light travels through anything but a vacuum, it goes slower. It is then possible to shoot particles through the medium at a speed faster than the speed of light in that medium, but of course, slower than the speed of light in a vacuum (Einstein's limit). In this situation, the particles emit Cerenkov radiation.

The curious properties of the speed of light in Einstein's theories arise because, indirectly we use, as our unit of spatial measurement, the wavelength of a particular light wave, and as our unit of temporal measurement, the time of one oscillation of a light wave. As we define the wavelength and period to be constants, of course their quotient, the velocity of light, is also a constant.

If anyone can think of a different way of measuring space and/or time, perhaps we can get around this problem.

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UFO'S MAY BE THE MESSAGE.

The Australian, January 28/1974.

By Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who was a consultant to the U.S. Air Force in its Blue Book Project on UFO phenomena and is the author of the UFO EXPERIENCE.

The possibility that there are civilisations galore scattered throughout our galaxy of 150 billion suns has excited the imaginations of millions.

Have we been visited by representatives of those civilisations in the past? Are we being visited now? Can we communicate with them? Or are they trying in their own way to communicate with us? And if so, what methods unknown to us might they be using - perhaps with as little success as if we tried to communicate with Stone Age men by radio?

Perhaps the entire Unidentified Flying Objects phenomenon, so perplexing to us, is in itself a form of communication we haven't caught on to yet. Maybe it is time we tried.

The many thousands of UFO reports from over the world baffle us. We have no explanation for them. Many have been made by very credible people, persons of considerable training whose testimony in other circumstances would be unquestioned.

Over the past 20 years I have found that my best reports on UFO phenomena come from air-traffic controllers, pilots, radar technicians, police officers and other persons in responsible positions.

It is illogical that while we disregard their testimony on this subject, impugning their very integrity - even their sanity - we often continue to place our welfare and our lives in their hands.

We have a UFO phenomenon. What does that mean? Many people all too naturally jump to the conclusion that UFO's represent actual nuts-and-bolts hardware from some other civilisation. Yet there is much evidence against this.

UFO "craft" appear in some cases to violate well-established physical laws. They take off at (cont'd).

UFO's May be Messages (cont'd.)

prodigious speeds but without producing sonic booms. They make exceedingly sharp turns, involving accelerations no living matter could stand.

They can change shape and form while being observed and some have been reported to dematerialise before the observer's eyes.

Nuts-and-bolts hardware, as we know it, cannot do this. Are those then perhaps some sort of holographic - that is, three-dimensional - images implanted in our consciousness by other intelligences? If so, why?

For the moment let us give free rein to our imaginations. The very best UFO reports corroborated by several witnesses and often by radar observations and photographs, indicate some sort of intelligence or at least intelligent behavior.

But is that intelligence directing the phenomenon here on earth or from afar? Are UFOs perhaps robot devices, either with built-in intelligence or directed by distant intelligence?

If we continue to let our imaginations ride free - and why stop here? - let us assume that such intelligences may have followed quite a different evolutionary path from ours.

In the past half-century or so we have learned to communicate by radio and television. Today we'd find it difficult to return to smoke signals. Perhaps radio is to them as smoke signals would be to us: a slow and inefficient way of communicating.

Yet U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists and others insist that since radio signals are the natural way to communicate, listening for them is the best way to detect the presence of other civilisations in space.

But is it? For one thing, it is a very slow method. Years must elapse before a two-way communication could be established. In some instances it would be a case of the long-since-dead talking to the not-yet-born.

Just how would civilisations millions of years more advanced communicate?

How about projected and materialised thought waves, for instance; could civilisations in distant space beam down a message - or a UFO - in a manner much like those portrayed in Star Trek? We shall certainly learn of things in the distant future that are impossible even to conceive of today.

Secret Key.

Suppose, then, that the whole UFO phenomenon is an advanced communication about which we know nothing. Perhaps the places UFO's are seen, the times they are seen and their appearance, represent a key or a code of communication we are too stupid to interpret, preferring to ridicule rather than to think.

What is needed is a sustained effort to understand what is going on - to separate the sense from the nonsense and to study the interesting patterns presented in UFO reports the world over.

NASA, for instance, is spending millions to find out whether or not there are bacteria on Mars. Might it not be wise to spend at least one per cent of that money to examine the UFO phenomenon in an imaginative and challenging project.

We might find a message in the UFO phenomenon - perhaps the UFO is the message!

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U.S. Navy Interested in UFOs.

From Skylook. Box 129, Stover, Mo.
65078. USA.

U.S. Clamps Information Lid on UFO Sightings in Georgia.

The above headline appeared in the Sept. 12, 1973 Santa Ana (California) "Register" over another fine UFO article written by Robert B. Klinn and David Branch whose articles appear regularly in this newspaper.

Working with Stanton T. Friedman who was also checking on the many UFO reports received from Georgia and learning the Georgia State police were referring callers about UFO's to the local naval air station, the writers placed a call on Sunday, Sept. 9, to the Naval Air Station at Albany, Georgia. The officer of the day advised that all UFO calls were being referred to the Operations Department at the base.

We quote from the "Register" article: "Ken Piel, air control man in the tower, answered our call to the Operations Department. We identified ourselves, referred to our information that callers were referred to the air station by the Georgia State Police, and stated we would like a status report on the Georgia UFO sightings for this column.

"'Sure. That's great!' exclaimed Piel. He seemed eager to talk, perhaps pleased his information would be published in Southern California because he said he came from Romona.

"'Just a minute.' Piel paused. 'Let me find out what's classified and what isn't.' He left the phone.

(cont'd).

"We recalled that on January 30, 1970, in response to a letter from scientist Thornton Pa e, Lt.Col. James H. Aikman, of the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, wrote: 'There are no longer any classified UFO records. All have been declassified in accordance with Air Force directives.' But what about the Navy?"

"Piel returned to the phone. Now his voice was somber. 'I don't know anything about it,' he said. There was a long pause and then he added, 'You know how it is.'

"Then he let us speak to the operations duty officer, Lt. Richard O'Neil. 'I am a pilot and was out flying all day today,' said O'Neil. 'I don't know anything about it, but even if I did, I couldn't say anything.'"

Klinn and Branch add: "According to reliable sources, the Navy has hundreds of never-released UFO reports from Navy pilots, and officers at sea. The late physicist and head of the Institute for Atmospheric Physics, Dr. James E McDonald, was funded by the Navy for a special trip to Australia to investigate UFO's. No report of this investigation has ever been made public by the Navy, despite inquiry." (Ed. Prof. McDonald came to this country in July 1967 and worked, for a considerable length of the time with the committee of VUFORS. He stayed about three weeks and visited NSW, QLD and Hobart UFO centres.)

But if the Navy won't talk, others have and the news media all over the United States reported the rash of UFO sightings over Georgia this month of September.

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'FIRST TO PUBLISH' EXPLOSIVE THEORY.

Western Leader, Henderson, New Zealand. 6/9/1973.

Captain Bruce Cathie, of Te Atatu is the discoverer of a scientific equation which could have almost unlimited application in all fields of science.

He has been able to accurately calculate the dates of French nuclear tests and he believes the equation could help produce a "selective" laser beam which could be programmed to penetrate certain substances exclusively.

Airline pilot, Mr. Cathie describes his theory as a "unified field equation", based on Einstein's classic - E equals mc squared.

"Though I am the first one who has ever published this equation," he said, "they are aware of it in top scientific circles."

He has published two books which examine the effects his equation could have on mankind and a third, which he is now writing, will probe the subject further.

AGREEMENT.

He has written agreement with the results of his research from two scientists in New Zealand and Australia, though he declines to mention their names because of the controversial nature of many of his conclusions.

"They would like to see this information made public," he said. He believes much of the world's knowledge is kept in the hands of a select group of people who would be capable of taking control of world affairs if they kept it secret.

"Unless this knowledge is given to the world freely, they could form a world government." He stressed that a world government would be a good thing, but only if it was operated with the knowledge of all the countries involved.

He said the most important information was in the hands of nuclear powers which wanted to suppress their knowledge.

"Their atomic testing is being carried out not to produce atomic weapons, but more in order to research the anti-gravitational sciences which makes everything we know about power production and related subjects obsolete."

He said countries which carried out atomic tests were "on the threshold" of mastering space travel. "Once they have this knowledge, everything we know becomes obsolete," Mr. Cathie said.

He has been asked to "keep quiet" about the results of his own research by some overseas scientists, but has refused. "They asked me to go secret with them," he said. One of his beliefs is particularly unpopular with world power groups "because it would make the financial structure totter a bit."

"The earth is a source of unlimited energy," he says. "It is charged with trillions of electron volts which are being replenished continuously."

He says a country's economy is based on distribution of energy resources, and the prospect of unlimited energy would upset the world's financial structure.

"You can imagine the implications of that," he says.
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SAGAN, STARFOLK, UFOS.

Carl Sagan, whose article, "The Starfolk", appears in this issue, has probably spent more time studying and writing about the possibilities of intelligent extraterrestrial life than any other scientist in the past decade. So it's natural that he gets many questions about UFOs. But, like most other scientists, he puts little credence in UFO reports.

"I don't think UFOs are connected with the problem of intelligent extraterrestrial life", he says, adding with a smile, "They might be connected to the problem of terrestrial life with some undetermined degree of intelligence"

Speaking to a capacity audience at the Goddard Space Flight Centre a few weeks ago during the height of the flurry of UFO reports - "UFO flap, I believe is the technical term" - Sagan summarised his view of the situation this way: "The remarkable thing about UFO stories is that there are many interesting reports which are unreliable, there are many reliable reports which are not very interesting; but I don't know of any that are both interesting and reliable".

Sagan, in response to questions, also had some less than kind words for Erich von Daniken's book, "Chariots of the Gods", which attempts to show that Earth was visited in the past by beings from other planets. "The book is absolutely dreadful", he says. "The only thing worse is the ABC documentary on the subject (Ancient Astronauts)". ABC's program had every conceivable error".

Science News, 3/11/1973.

BAGBY'S MINIMOONS NONEXISTENT.

Dr. J.P. Bagby published a paper in 1969 suggesting that the Earth has a number of natural moonlets formed from the disintegration of a larger parent body in late 1955. Science News (26/4/1969) reported:

Dr. John P. Bagby, of Hughes Aircraft Company, says the earth may have at least 10 tiny natural satellites. For decades astronomers have speculated that the earth might pick up small bodies and constrain them to orbit around it. From time to time sightings have been made of objects that might be such satellites, and orbits have even been computed for them. Tracing the history of the 10 small objects, Dr. Bagby found them all at the same spot on Dec. 18, 1955, and he surmises that all originated in one object that broke up on that day.

Now a refutation of Bagby's theory comes from Jean Meeus, writing in the Aug. 1973 issue of Icarus, the international journal of solar system studies, edited by Carl Sagan. In his paper, Bagby had quoted some telescopic and photographic observations to support his theory. These included:

1. Object sighted by J.M. Hammond with a motion of 2.0 ± 1.0 deg/min on Sept 23 \pm 1, 1947. (i.e., date uncertain)
2. Object sighted by T.A. Gragg on Jan 21, 1952, with rate of motion 6.5 ± 0.1 deg/min.
3. Six objects seen by D. Craig on Jan 31, 1956, with rate of motion 1.0 ± 0.3 deg/min.
4. Four objects sighted by Bagby on May 4, 1957, with rate of motion 0.9 ± 0.1 deg/min.
5. On object sighted on Mar 27, 1968 took 7-minutes to cover 5 degrees.
6. On April 21, 1968, Three positions of an object were observed photographically. The object covered 12.5 degrees in 14 minutes.

Bagby had stated in his paper that a number of observed disturbances in the orbits of artificial satellites could be explainable as due to perturbations by the tiny natural bodies. However, Meeus states that the figures used by Bagby in his calculations were only approximate and often grossly in error; and further that the data given in the quoted sightings were too meagre on which to base the calculation of orbits. Meeus concludes his paper:

"Bagby's story on the Earth moonlets thus appears to be groundless. There are no 'puzzling disturbances' in the orbits of artificial satellites, and the objects cited by Bagby do not exist".

The question now remains: if the objects observed were not natural satellites, what were they? The first four observations could not have been artificial satellites, as none were in existence until Oct. 1957, with the launching of Sputnik 1. So we are left with a number of observations by competent observers of unexplained sightings. Yet we are continually told by various "experts" that no unexplained objects are ever observed or photographed by astronomers.

CAN YOU READ AND WRITE JAPANESE?

We have a correspondent who wishes to exchange UFO information with any of our members - in Japanese. His letter to us was in very good English! He is 25 years of age and belongs to a number of Japanese UFO research groups. His address - and name -

Keiichi Hatano,
2 - Chome, Kajimachi,
Kurayoshi City,
Totori-ken. Japan.

REPORTS FROM THE PRESS.SATELLITE RE-ENTRY.....AND SOME UFOS AS WELL?

What was believed to be the re-entry of satellite debris into the earth's atmosphere at about 7.15pm on Sept 5 was reported by many observers over large areas of Queensland and northern NSW.

"Mr.T.J.Linton, of Sunnybank Heights, Brisbane, a member of the Astronomical Society of Queensland, was one who saw the lights. He said there were about 10 to 12 objects in the group. They were white in color and each object left trails with blue and orange tonings. Mr. Linton believes the objects were parts of a rocket rather than a meteorite shower".

(Warwick (Q) News, 6/9/1973)

However, is the following an unusually imaginative description of the same phenomenon, or something different..?

Mr. E.G.Linehan sighted a cone-shaped object in the sky over Laurieton at about 7.15 pm (The same day Wed.Sept.5) Mr.Linehan, of Lorne said yesterday his wife, Laura and son Lindsay had also seen the "frosty, orange colored object". He was going out to post a letter at the time of the sighting and watched the object circle over Laurieton for about 5 minutes.

"When the object was circling, orange and blood red lights were flashing", he said. The UFO then headed south and reappeared at about 9 pm coming from a north westerly direction. He estimated the object was travelling too fast to be an aeroplane.

After making the first sighting, he rushed inside to draw a rough map, tracing the path of the object and its shape. Later, at about 9 pm, his son, Lindsay checked and it was the same object he had seen earlier.

(Taree Times, 7/9/73)

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UFO SIGHTING NEAR JERILDERIE.

Five people in a car have reported seeing strange lights in the sky between Conargo and Jerilderie. They told Jerilderie police on Friday that two lights had followed their car for about 4 miles Friday evening (Sept 7). The people were travelling from Barham. They said that the lights were clearly visible for about 20 to 30 feet above the ground. They were green and glowing. The sightings occurred about 8.30 p.m.

(Finley Southern Riverina News 11/9/73.)

The same Friday evening, two other aerial phenomena were reported:

Two women on Friday night reported seeing an unusual object in the sky south of Vittoria as they travelled towards Bathurst along the Mitchell Highway. They are Mrs.Margaret Hubbard of Cobar, and her sister Mrs.Launa Harvey, of Prospect St., Bathurst. They said they saw the object apparently falling towards the ground and watched it for a minute or so. "It looked to be about 20 miles away and was a large pear-shaped object", Mrs.Hubbard said. "It was yellow and there seemed to be bright sparks coming out one end".

(Lithgow Mercury (NSW) 10/9/73.

Mrs.K.S.Talbot was standing at the kitchen window of her Rockleigh home when she first saw a brilliant red light appear over the hills to the south west at about 8.45 pm.

"The light seemed to vary in color from red to bright orange. I couldn't guess what size the object was, but it was round, and seemed to have two extensions, like legs, at the bottom".

(Mrs.Talbot drew a rough sketch showing a triangular shape with two short legs).

(Murray Valley Standard. (SA) 11/9/73.

(A setting planet or star might possibly explain the latter sighting.)

The next day, Saturday Sept.8, two high flying mystery objects sighted over the north west of Western Australia were widely reported in the press. The objects were heading inland, and were later reported over Alice Springs. The only press item available following up this incident appeared in the Townsville Register (Q) 15/9/73

MYSTERY AIRCRAFT A PUZZLE.

There has been no official explanation of the mysterious sightings of unidentified aircraft over Central Australia at the weekend. The manager of the Alice Springs Airport, Mr.Alan Miers, said today he had received no further information on the sightings but he had heard reports from Adelaide claiming the sightings were a "mistake".

"A mistake, how and by whom?" Mr. Miers asked.....

The Sydney Sunday Mirror (9/9/73) reported that the regional director of the DCA in Adelaide, Mr. K.M.Barclay, said that as the sightings had not been confirmed, no further action was being taken. "You must bear in mind they had a ball up at Alice Springs last night", he said.....

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MEMBERS

DON'T FORGET THAT MEETINGS THIS YEAR ARE ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH.

We will advise you when the Discussion nights are to be held and where they will be, and the subject for discussion.

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